



**Ceannasai na Seirbhísi Curam Michumais General Manager of Disability Services – Louth Meath**

Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire  
An Lú, An Mhí,  
Oifig Ceantair, Bóthar Cheanannais, Bhaile  
Átha Fhirdia, Co. Lú

Midlands Louth Meath Community  
Healthcare Organisation (MLM CHO)  
St Brigids Hospital Complex, Ardee,  
Co. Louth A92 DRN0  
E-mail:  
[GM.DisabilitiesLouthMeath@hse.ie](mailto:GM.DisabilitiesLouthMeath@hse.ie)

15<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Deputy Darren O'Rourke,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 37509/24 - *To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to report on respite for children and adults with disabilities in County Meath; if he will provide an update on plans to increase respite for children and adults with disabilities in County Meath; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Darren O'Rourke***

Dear Deputy O'Rourke

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for response. I have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows:

Following extensive communications, business cases were submitted to the Minister for Disabilities office requesting additional funding for additional respite services in Meath for both children & adults.

The National Service Plan 2023 confirmed revenue funding of €1.6 million had been allocated for the development of additional disability respite services in CHO 8, with Meath as the priority area. Following a national procurement process, interested providers were invited to submit tender documents for the development of both the children and adult services as individual lots.

In May 2024, following a lengthy process, two Service Providers were selected to develop the services, with contracts being issued in June 2024.

**Children's Service.**

**Talbot Services** were the chosen provider for the development of the **Children's Service** which is now named Castlewood House and is a registered designated centre with HIQA. The premises are located in Trimblestown which is situated between Trim and Athboy Co. Meath.

Castlewood will provide respite to children from 6 to 18 years, with intellectual and physical disabilities.

The service will also provide for children with Autism and Complex Needs along with behaviours that may challenge. The service has 5 beds within the main house and an additional single occupancy stand-alone unit that will facilitate those with complex needs while not impacting on the overall capacity of the main house. Castlewood will open 362 days per year, with capacity for up to 1810 bed nights. It is estimated that this will double the current number of respite nights available to children in the Meath, with some 70 children availing of services from Castlewood.

Castlewood House commenced assessments and transitions to respite in August 2024 and are currently providing day visits for children and families along with overnight visits.

Castlewood House had its official opening on the 24th October 2024.

**Adult Service:**

**My Life Services** are the chosen provider for the adult service which is now under development within the town of Navan. The premises will be located on the Commons Road, Navan, which is centrally located providing service users with access to community services and activities. The service will operate 7 nights per week and will provide in excess of 1,800 bed nights per year for service users known to Meath Adult Disability Services.

The HSE are working closely with My Life Services with regard to a target date for opening. It is intended that the service will be operational in January 2025. All relevant stakeholders will be kept up to date on progress accordingly.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



**Wanetta Duff**  
General Manager, Disability Services, HSE Louth Meath CHO